

**[Report 1957] / Medical Officer of Health, Downham Market U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

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DOWNHAM MARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E



M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

F O R T H E Y E A R 1 9 5 7 .

to which is appended the Report of the  
Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

Mr. J.A. Thompson, M.Inst.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

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DR. R.A. STENHOUSE, L.M.S.S.A. D.P.H.

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DOWNHAM MARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members of the Public Health Committee:-

Mr. A.L.Fox, Chairman.

Mr. C.E.Bowman.

Mr. A.C.Dye.

Mr. A.R.Bullen.

Mrs. M.K.Hartley.

Mrs. I.M.Burbeck.

Mr. J.H.Kendall

Mr. R.Burton.

Mr. D. Sneezum.

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Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :-

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr.R.A.Stenhouse, L.M.S.S.A., D.P.H.

Also holds the appointments of :-

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer of Health to Downham Rural District Council.

Medical Officer of Health to Marshland Rural District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR

J.A.Thompson, M.Inst.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Local Health Office,  
Downham Market.

April, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Downham Market  
Urban District Council.

I have the honour to submit my annual report for 1957.

The general health of the District has been satisfactory and indeed according to a recent survey by the Registrar General, East Anglia was included amongst regions having the lowest death rate. The Birth Rate of 14.8 and Death Rate of 7.8 thus compares favourably with that for England and Wales 16.1 and 11.5 respectively. The comparability factor given by the Registrar General is 1.04 for births and 0.36 for deaths. The number of live Births is 38 compared with 21 for 1956.

A measles epidemic broke out in the early part of the year which affected severely most schools in the District and continued up to the end of the summer term. The disease was of a mild nature and complications unusual. A total of 56 cases were recorded. No schools were closed on this account.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis was continued throughout the year as and when supplies of vaccine became available. Increased supplies of British vaccine were received during the summer and all children born between 1947 and 1956 could register for treatment. In December registrations included expectant mothers and children up to 15 years, general practitioners, hospital and ambulance staff, as supplies of American vaccine were anticipated. A total of 112 children received 2 injections.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis (B.C.G. Vaccine) was offered to all children in their last year of attendance at school, with the object of giving protection after leaving and taking up employment.

The Mass Radiography Unit continues to operate in the District.

During the month of September Influenza probably of the Asian type, but of a mild nature began to appear in the district and towards the end of the month information received from the Ministry of National Insurance showed that from the increase in new sickness claims, it had reached epidemic proportions.

Both adults and children were affected, but symptoms appeared more severe in adults. Incidence in the schools varied, but up to 45% absentees on this account were recorded during October, average being about 30%

No schools were closed.

Towards the end of the year there was a decline in the number of cases. The Registrar General's figure for deaths from Influenza for England and Wales during this period showed a marked increase.

In June the Government opened a campaign directed against the danger of heavy smoking in connection with lung cancer. Much has been said and written on this subject, but it still remains controversial. However not to smoke, or at least only in moderation is advice which is good at all ages even for reasons other than the fear of cancer and the particular efforts should be made to prevent the habit developing in young people. Posters warning the public against the danger of smoking have been placed on Council Notice Boards at the request of the County Council.

Rural areas have been shown to have the lowest death rate from lung cancer and whilst it must be agreed that constitutional factors play an important part in the incidence of this disease there is a school of thought which reasons that tobacco smoking rather than being a cause of Cancer, is really the result.

The Sewage Plant and Sewage Disposal Scheme Part II has received sanction of the Ministry of Health. It is essential that the second part of the scheme should be proceeded with as soon as possible. The Council has already given instructions to the Engineer to prepare plans and details.

With the increasing number of aged people amongst the population the Home Help Service, as provided by the Norfolk County Council, is proving of increasing benefit as it enablesthe these old people to remain longer in their homes thus avoiding the need for Institutional care, which is of benefit not only to themselves, but also to the ratepayers.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation for the support, encouragement and guidance afforded me by members of the Council, the Clerk and Officers of the various departments including the Local Health Office, during the period under review.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant, .

R. A. STENHOUSE.

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1957

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	1,003.
Population 1931	...	...	...	...	2,465.
Population 1957 (Estimated)	...	...	...	...	2,680.
Population 1952 (Census)	...	...	...	...	2,741.
Number of Separate dwellings occupied 1956					898.

LIVE BIRTHS. 38. 14.8 per 1000 of population

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Downham</u> <u>Urban</u>	<u>England</u> <u>&amp; Wales</u>	<u>Administra-</u> <u>tive County</u>
Legitimate	38	23	14	14.8	16.1	15.39
Illegitimate	1	-	1		22.4	22.51

STILL BIRTHS. Nil.

DEATHS. Infants under 1 year. 1.  
Infants under 4 weeks. 1.

DEATHS ALL CAUSES. Rate 7.8 per 1000 of population  
(Comparability factor already applied  
is 0.41).

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Downham</u> <u>Urban</u>	<u>England</u> <u>&amp; Wales</u>	<u>Administra-</u> <u>tive County</u>
	57	24	33	7.8	11.5	11.74

Death from Puerperal Causes - NIL.

Deaths from :-

Cancer (all ages)	10
Measles do	Nil.
Whooping Cough	Nil.
Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs)	Nil.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (acres) . . . . .	1003.
Population (estimated mid-year 1957) . . . . .	2680.

DEATHS. 57 deaths were assigned to the district by the Registrar General, yielding a Standardised Rate of 7.8.

BIRTHS. 38 births were assigned to the district, an increase of 17 on the previous year.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were no maternal deaths in the District.

INFANT MORTALITY. One child under 1 year of age died in the district during 1957.

STILL BIRTHS. No still births were notified.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Norfolk Executive Council, 54, Prince of Wales' Road,  
Norwich - Clerk: R.J. Cobb, Esq.

2. EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer,  
Dr. J.B. Ewen, M.D., D.P.H.,  
"Croft-Holme", 117, Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

3. (a) GENERAL

Norfolk & Norwich Hospital, Norwich.  
West Norfolk & King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn.  
Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.  
St. James' Hospital, King's Lynn (For chronic sick).  
The Howdale Home, Downham Market.

(b) MATERNITY.

West Norfolk & King's Lynn Hospital (Maternity Unit).  
Mill Road Hospital, Cambridge.

(c) INFECTIOUS.

County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.  
Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.

(d) SANATORIA.

Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.  
Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt.

(e) MENTAL

St. Andrew's Hospital, Norwich.  
Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.  
Heckingham Sanatorium, Norwich.  
Little Plumstead, Norwich.

4. MATERNITY SERVICES.

- (a) DISTRICT NURSE :-  
Nurse Fox; 2, London Road, Downham Market.
- (b) Maternity beds in Regional Hospital Board Establishments:- Stow Maternity Home, Stow Bardolph.

5. AMBULANCE & HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

This is a County Council function and is controlled by the Joint Ambulance Committee. It is worked on an Agency basis by the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John and W.V.S.

The Downham Urban Area is served by the Downham Market Ambulance.

Infectious Disease cases are conveyed by the East Dereham and King's Lynn Infectious Disease Ambulances.

The Hospital Car Service is administered from the Local Health Office.

6. RED CROSS MEDICAL LOAN DEPOT.

Downham Market - Mrs. I.M. Burbeck, "Court House".

7. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

The Downham Market Infant Welfare centre is held at the Health Office, Howdale Road.

The Assistant County Medical Officer of Health is in attendance at the session which is held from 2 - 4 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

I would again like to register my warm appreciation of the voluntary help given at each session by the ladies of the local branch of the British Red Cross.

School Dental Clinic.

The School Dental Officer attends every Thursday and Friday at the Local Health Office.

Home Help Service.

The County Home Help Scheme is working smoothly and judging by results, the efforts of the occasional Helps are greatly appreciated.

8. VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

Males.  
Tuesday & Fridays.  
6 p.m.

Females and Children.  
Tuesday and Wednesdays.  
3. p.m.

9. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.

Disinfestation of bedding, clothing, etc. which has to be carried out by this department are sent to the East Dereham Isolation Hospital.

10. LABORATORY SERVICES.

(a) Public Health Laboratory,  
Isolation Hospital,  
Bowthorpe Road, ..  
Norwich...  
under the direction of Dr. I.M. Dowsett.

(b) Public Analyst :-

Mr. Eric Wood, Ph.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.,  
Clarence House,  
6, Clarence Road,  
Norwich.

SECTION C.

PREVALANCE OF CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.

SMALL POX. Nil.

SCARLET FEVER. Nil.

DIPHTHERIA. Nil.

The following table gives the numbers of children either primarily immunised by a full course of injections, or stimulated to maximum immunity by booster doses, during the last five years:-

<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
28	51	19	45	90

PNEUMONIA. 3 cases were notified.

WHOOPING COUGH. 1 case was notified.

MEASLES. 56 cases were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS. One new case (Pulmonary) was notified.

SECTION D.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1957.

TABLE NO. 1.

Causes of Death

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ...	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, lung bronchus	2	1	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	2	6
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	9	13
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	1	2	3
Hypertension with heart disease ...	-	1	1
Other heart diseases ... ..	4	4	8
Other Circulatory diseases ... ..	2	2	4
Influenza ... ..	-	1	1
Pneumonitis ... ..	2	1	3
Bronchitis ... ..	-	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	1	-	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	1	7	8
	<hr/>		
All causes:	24	33	57
	<hr/>		

DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN.

TABLE NO. 2.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR - 1957

One child under the age of one year died during the year.

<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>	<u>AGE IN WEEKS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Injury at Birth	1 Week.	1.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

1957

OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE NO. 4.

Disease.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Measles.				5	4	40	6	1					56
Whooping Cough. 1													1
Pneumonia.		1								2			3
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>			<b>60</b>

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

TABLE NO. 5.

Notification in Age Groups 1957.

Disease.	0-1	2-3	4-5	10-15	20-35	45-65	Total							
Measles..	2	2	1	4	2	21	19	2	2	-	1	-	56	
Whooping Cough.				1									1	
Pneumonia.								1					2	3
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>60</b>	

## REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit particulars of the work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1957.

### 1. Inspections during the Year

(a)	Number of houses inspected for defects.	2
(b)	Number of inspections for the purpose	5
(c)	Number of houses found not to be fit in all respects for human habitation.	
(d)	Number of Closing Orders served.	

### 2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice.

(a)	<u>Remedy of Defects after Service of Formal Notice.</u>	
(i)	Housing Act, 1936.	Nil.
(ii)	Public Health Act, 1936.	Nil.

### 3. Number of New Houses built or under Construction.

(a)	Houses completed by the Authority.	Nil.
(b)	Houses completed by County Council for schools.	Nil.
(c)	Houses completed by Private Enterprise	8.
(d)	Houses under construction by Local Authority.	Nil.
(e)	Houses under construction by Private Enterprise.	5.
(f)	Total houses owned by Local Authority.	202.

### 4. Summary of Other Visits and Inspections.

Council Houses.	120
Bakehouses.	1
Slaughterhouses.	220
Butchers Shops.	13
Market & Food Stores.	5
Food Preparation Rooms.	3
Ice-cream.	8
Shops.	4
Factories (Mech. Power)	3
" (no. Mech. Power).	2
Public Conveniences.	6
Tents, Vans & Sheds.	
Drainage - New & Old.	88
" Length of drain tested.	
Infectious Diseases.	6

Streams & Watercourses.	
Refuse Collection & Disposal.	55
Rodent Control.	12
Miscellaneous.	48
Sewage Works.	88
In connection with Plans & Buildings.	111
Council House Building - Porter Street.	76

#### 5. Meat Inspection & Slaughterhouses.

There are 4 licensed slaughterhouses which were granted licences in 1955 until 31st July, 1959.

The following were inspected in the slaughterhouses:-

Cattle	181
Calves	6
Sheep and lambs	337
Pigs	535

The following were condemned and disposed of as unfit for human food.

28 lbs meat.
25 Beast's Livers.
1 Beasts' Kidney.
3 Sheep Livers.

A total weight of approximately 380 lbs.

#### 6. Food Inspection.

No adulteration of any foodstuff was reported during the year. 7 tins and packages of various foodstuff weighing approximately 11 lbs. and other food weighing 112 lbs. were surrendered voluntarily as unfit for human consumption.

#### 7. Milk and Dairies.

There are four distributors of milk in the Urban District. None of them produce milk in the Urban area.

#### 8. Movable Dwellings.

There are four licensed caravans.

9. Pet Shops

There is one licensed Pet Shop in the Area.

10. Public Cleansing.

(a) Scavenging. The whole of the scavenging of both County and District Roads is undertaken by the District Council's employees.

(b) Refuse Collection. House Refuse is collected once weekly throughout the District. A number of properties situated just outside the District in the Broomhill and Crow Hall areas are also served. Disposal of refuse is by means of tipping on land at the sewage works.

11. Salvage

During the year waste paper collected and salvaged and sold amounted to 46 tons 6 cwts. 3 qrts. The amount of money received was £381. 8s. 2d.

12. Destruction of Rats and Mice.

Poisoning was carried out at the Refuse Tip, Sewage Works and on the sewers and premises in the town.

13. Water Supply.

The Water Supply in the District is from mains of the Wisbech & District Water Board. The supply comes from deep wells in the chalk at Marham. Twenty Three new connections were made to the Board's mains in the Area during the year.

14. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The work on the Sewerage Scheme (Part I) started in November, 1954 continued throughout the year, although substantially completed at the beginning. The Resident Engineer left on the 12th January, 1957 and from this time the immediate supervision was done by the Council Surveyor.

One of the Sedimentation Tanks was brought into operation, on the 26th October, 1956 and the second on the 18th September, 1957.

The Council inspected the works on the 1st July.

In September, the Ministry of Housing & Local Government notified the Council that they could proceed with the second stage of the scheme and the necessary instructions were immediately passed to the Council's Consulting Engineers - Messrs. J. D. & D.M. Watson. - to prepare the necessary details for obtaining tenders.

15. Great Ouse River Board Flood Relief Channel. *also 149 attached*

During the year the new relief channel was the subject of discussion with officials of the River Board with regard to the effect it was likely to have on the drainage of the sewage works land and the works to be carried out by the Great Ouse River Board

16. Council Housing.

Porter Street - Elizabeth Avenue. :- During the early part of the year the street works were completed on this site.

Future Housing

Difficulties of obtaining suitable sites for housing development were experienced and no sites had been acquired at the end of the year.

17. Housing Improvement Grants

Grants were paid towards the cost of improvements of two houses.

18. Plans

During the year 39 applications for Development under the Town & Country Planning Act received the consideration of the Committee.

19. Factories Act

Section 34. Certificates of Adequate Means of Escape were issued in respect of 4 factories during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

Part 1 of the Act - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector.)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	2	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	27	3	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding Out-Workers' Premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	31	5	Nil	Nil

J. A. THOMPSON,

Public Health Inspector & Surveyor.

14.a.

SEWERAGE - DOWNHAM WEST.

Due to the Great Ouse River Board workings in connection with the New Relief Channel affecting the existing drainage system for Downham West the Downham Rural District Council had arranged with the River Board to prepare a scheme of sewerage for this area and the Urban District Council were approached with the suggestion that the Downham West sewage should be passed into the Urban District Council sewers and given treatment at the Disposal Works.

Representatives of both Councils and of the Norfolk County Council and Great Ouse River Board met on the 18th March and it was eventually agreed that the Urban District Council would accept the sewage for treatment upon payment of £60. per annum for a period of 2 years after which it was to be reviewed.

It was reported to the Council at the end of the year that test pumping into the Council's sewer was being carried out.

